

## Onomatopoeia

A word that sounds like what it describes

Think about animal calls

Onomatopoeia helps bring a scene to life.

The sounds of the words help you hear what is going on, making the world the writer has created feel more real.

If you open a comic book, you'll find onomatopoeia everywhere.

There's a whole world of sounds from

Ping

Wham

and Ha Ha Ha to

Boing

Squelch

Whizz and Scoosh

Onomatopoeia is often used in poetry, too.

Edwin Morgan's poem 'In The Snack Bar' describes an old, blind man being helped to the toilet.

The poem features plenty of onomatopoeia:

"crunch of spilt sugar...hiss of the coffee-machine...

A cup capsizes...with a dull clatter"</p>

The old man's disability may turn an everyday sound or experience into something uncomfortable or threatening.

Morgan chooses to use sounds that are harsh - crunch, hiss, clatter

These words emphasise that because the old man cannot see, he relies on his sense of hearing

The onomatopoeia helps us hear the snack bar in the way the old man would.

Why don't you try adding a little fizz to your writing by using onomatopoeia?